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TO THE

COMMANDERY OF THE STATE OF KANSAS.

Companions will notice a net decrease of four in our membership. This with the heavy arrearages and light attendance upon our meetings would seem to indicate a lack of interest which is to be deplored. Our Order stands high as it ever has stood. Its object and purposes remains the same. The attention of Companions is invited to these extracts from the Constitution. Its preamble declares in part, that

"We * * having aided in maintaining the honor, integrity and supremacy of the National Government at a critical period of its history, and holding in remembrance the sacrifices in common made and the triumphs together shared in discharge of this sacred duty, unite to ordain and establish a permanent association for the purposes and objects hereinafter set forth, and to this end *pledge our honor* as officers and gentlemen, to be governed by the * * Constitution and By-Laws."

ITS PRINCIPLES.

"*First.* A firm belief and trust in Almighty God, * *

Second. True allegiance to the United States of America, based upon paramount respect for and fidelity to the National Constitution and Laws, manifested by discountenancing whatever may tend to weaken loyalty, * * * or impair in any manner the efficiency and permanency of our free institutions."

Its Objects * * "to cherish the memories and associations of the war waged in defense of the unity and indivisibility of the Republic; strengthen the ties of fraternal fellowship and sympathy formed by companionship-in-arms; advance the best interests of the soldiers and sailors of the United States especially of those associated as Companions of this Order, and extend all possible relief to their widows and children; * * * and enforce unqualified allegiance to the General Government, * * * and maintain National Honor, Union and Independence."

THE LOYAL LEGION HAS THE RIGHT OF WAY.

Our Noble Order stands upon a sure foundation, and let us not forget, that we have pledged our honor to its support and maintenance. No organization will flourish if its members are listless and inert with regard to extending its influence, and increasing its membership. In this State of Kansas, with its 40,000 or more of veterans, there must be many, worthy and eligible to membership, who are unacquainted with our Order, but who, if informed thereof, and invited to join us, would gladly do so. Let each Companion be a committee of one to attend our meetings and secure a recruit.

The attention of those Companions who are some years behind with their dues, is invited to the fact that the patience of the Commandery is about exhausted. Numerous appeals have been made to those who are financially able, to pay up; to those who are not able to pay, but wish to retain their membership, to make a frank statement of the fact to the Commandery which does not wish to treat any Companion harshly, but does not feel disposed to much longer carry on its rolls the names of those who are able, but unwilling to pay the prescribed dues while apparently using their membership in the Order for all that can be got out of it; and will undoubtedly take summary action on such cases at its next meeting.

Pertinent to this the following extracts from the Constitution are quoted:

Sec. 6 Art. 7. "Each Companion shall be entitled to the Insignia during membership."

Sec. 1 Art. 9. "Membership shall be forfeited only for violation of the obligations assumed on entering the Order *** In such cases the Diploma and Insignia shall be returned to the Commandery."

The following is the obligation signed by each Companion on entering the Order:

"I agree that if I am elected, the Insignia and Diploma shall remain the property of the Commandery, and shall be held by me only during my membership; and further agree that in case my membership is terminated or annulled from *any cause* whatever the said Insignia and Diploma shall be returned to the said Commandery, to be disposed of in accordance with the Constitution of the Order."

P.

Author.

"THE BUTTON OF THE LEGION."

It is only a little round button,
Worn on the breast of the brave,
Who years ago in her hour of need,
To Columbia their service gave.
But its red is the seal of their life blood,
Its white, the faith they would save :
Its blue, the truth of their purpose,
Sown in many an unmarked grave.

And it speaks of vigil and bivouac,
Of marches through wood and fen,
Of the poisonous breath of Southern swamps,
Of hardships and peril—then
Of the rattle and thunder of combat,
Of the moans of wounded men,
With only the voice of the moss-wreathed pines
To say to their prayers, "Amen."

Of the gleam of the Star Spangled Banner,
Flung out from some captured height ;
Of the peal of trumpets that gave men strength,
When their arms waxed weak in the fight.
Of the roll of the drums, when the charge was made ;
The cannons' challenge of might ;
The anguish—or rest—when the wild day done,
The bugles sounded "Good Night."

Of faces that paled 'neath Death's fingers ;
Of voices that weakened fast ;
Of torn hands striving in vain to salute,
As general and staff swept past.
Of the pain and the thirst and the hunger,
Of the courage no sword could blast,
Of the living that came mith the dying,
Of the Victory—won at last !

And more splendid than standards of empire,
The flags that from battle came,
Shot through and through, and begrimed with smoke,
But scathless of wrong or shame.
And more splendid than orders of empire,
The button whose colors flame
With the valor that saved the republic,
And kept unsullied her name !

Then a health to its gray-haired wearers !
And a health given silently
To their comrades asleep in the North and the South,
Awaiting God's reveille.

Frances Bartlett.

Please notice change in the hour of meeting. This has been made for two reasons. First, to enable Companions from a distance to see every thing through and go to their homes the same evening. Second, few of us can enjoy two meals so close together. The appetite may be good, but digestion will not wait on it.

Will any Companion who can do so, notify the Recorder of the present address of Companions, Geo. H. Hyde, William E. Brewer and M. V. B. Barney.

By Command of Colonel C. C. C. Carr,

Commander,

H. B. FREEMAN,
Brig. Gen. U. S. A.,
Recorder.

Official :

Recorder.

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